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# A TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE Irregular Proceedings At *GUILD-HALL*, About the Swearing the TWO Pretended SHERIFFS Mr. *NORTH* and Mr. *RICH.*

*September* 28. 1682

THE laſt Night my Lord Mayor iſſued out Tickets to the Aldermen in theſe Words:

Sir; *Your Worſhip is deſired to be at a Court of Aldermen at* Guild-Hall *on Thurſday next at nine of the Clock in the forenoon, in your violet Gown and Cloak, being the twenty eighth of* September.

Accordingly ſeveral Aldermen appeared at *Guild-hall*, and it being the day appointed for the Swearing of Sheriffs, they attended *Thomas Papillon* and *John Dubois* Eſquires into the *Guild-Hall* at the hour appointed by the Lord Mayor, which they found guarded by Foot-Companies of the Trained-Bands (a thing expreſly contrary to the *Engliſh* Conſtitutions, which hath been jealous of nothing more than the preſerving Elections free from force or terrour;) Some whereof were poſted at the Doors and preſented their Muskets: But yet there was no refuſal of entrance, but rather an opening of the Files, and ſome reſpect ſhewn. So all the aforeſaid Aldermen paſſed into the Council-Chamber, where having ſtaid a little while, and ſuppoſing my Lord Mayor might go up to the *Huſtings* directly, they went down into the Hall towards the *Huſtings*-door, and there abode ſome time, attending his Lordſhips coming, the Souldiers with reſpect giving way. But Lieutenant Collonel *Quiney* who was abſent at their entry, came up to them very much concerned, and made ſeveral turns without ſpeaking to them, but commanded the Souldiers ſeveral times to ſtand to their Arms, and ſo withdrew. But after a quarter of an hour he came back again and commanded the Souldiers to face about (and ſo alter'd their Figure) and to advance ſo as to encompaſs or impriſon the Aldermen, for there was not ſix foot ſquare left them to ſtand upon. Whereupon *Quiney* ſaid to the Aldermen, *I have a command from the Lieutenancy to keep the Hall clear, and ſuffer none to be here till my Lord Mayor comes.* Upon this, ſeveral Aldermen demanded to ſee the Order, being ready to obey all Legal commands; and asked him, whether he did not know that *they were Magiſtrates of the City; and could believe it reached them?* To which

he answered, *I have none, but it is with the Major of the Regiment, and I do know you, and you must remove.* Further, the Aldermen declared, they were summoned to wait on my Lord Mayor at the *Guild-Hall*, and there attended in all peaceableness. Whereupon he withdrew again for some time, but returning, said, *Gentlemen You* **must** *withdraw, I have a command to require it.* But being again demanded to shew his Warrant or Order, he answered in a great heat, That he *would shew none, nor to none* **such as they**. Then laying hands first on *Sir P. W's.* shoulder who stood next to him, he said, *Sir You must remove*; and called on his Souldiers to advance close to the Bar, so as to thrust them away; *Sir P. W.* only replied to him, *We are in a lawful place, and on our Duty*, desiring the other Aldermen that were present, and the Souldiers, to take notice of the violence offered. And surely it was such as is scarcely to be Parallell'd, especially in a well-governed City; that their Civil Magistrates should be so affronted in their own Room. But *Quincy* answered, *he cared not for Witness, he would justifie what he did, having Orders from the Lieutenancy so to do.* Then he took hold on *Sir J. L.* who was leaning on the Bar, and with very great and repeated violence pulled him from off the step, and had like to have thrown him down; who demanded still *by what Order he did it?* and that he would shew the same. But he replied again, *he would shew none:* Then he took hold of *Sir J. S.* and *Sir T. G.* and Ald. *C.* who likewise demanding to see his Orders, were answered to the same purpose as aforesaid. Hereupon all the Aldermen desiring the Souldiers who were present to take notice of the Assaults and Misdemeanours of the said *Quincy*, they withdrew into the *West* part of the Hall, where divers persons were walking, *viz. Withers, Wiseman, Nicols, Steventon, &c.* some of them being of the Lieutenancy, and others not. To whom it was said, *Did not you see the Misdemeanours of* Quincy? But they instead of resenting the indignities offered to those worthy Aldermen, who had served the City to so great a degree that the mouth of malice it self may be stopt, answered, *He followed but the Orders of the Lieutenancy.* Then it was asked them (being Acquaintance) *How they came by that Freedom in the Hall, when the* **Aldermen** *were so ill treated there?* Whereunto they answered, *they were of the Lieutenancy, and attended the coming of my Lord Mayor:* The which the Aldermen told them *they also did, but had not the same civil treatment.*

Not long after came my Lord Mayor, to whom these Aldermen joined themselves, and went up out of the Great Hall into the Council-Chamber, and Mr. *Papillon* and Mr. *Dubois* with them: where being entred, the first words my Lord Mayor said, were these, *viz: Gentlemen, here are fine doings, to go and Swear Sheriffs, and I not present!* Whereunto Sir *J. L.* answer'd, *Whoever told your Lordship so, misinform'd your Lordship; we came very peaceably to the Hall to perform our duty, and know well what it is to administer an Oath, and had not the least intention of such a thing, but to lay our claim by presenting Sheriffs.*

Sir *R. C.* also told his Lordship, *he ought to be angry with those that had given him false Information, rather than with those he was misinformed of; and that nothing was intended or designed contrary to his Lordships frequent and publick Declaration, which was, that the matter should be determin'd by Law; and it was advised that could not be done, unless Mr.* Papillon *and Mr.* Dubois *did present themselves to be sworn.*

Whereupon his Lordship seemed to rest satisfied; and immediately the rest of the Aldermen with the other Sheriffs coming in, Mr. *Papillon and* Mr. *Dubois* presented themselves to his Lordship, and Mr. *Papillon* read a Paper the contents whereof were as followes.

To

To the Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR and Court of ALDERMEN: The humble Declaration of *Thomas Papillon* Mercer, and *John Dubois* Weaver, Citizens of *London*.

*OUR Abſence in the Countrey on* Midſummer-day *laſt, and for ſome time before and ſince, and our being perſonally Strangers to, and no way appearing or concerning our ſelves with any of the Tranſactions or Proceedings then, or ſince Uſed in the Choice of Sheriffs for this Honourable City and County of* Middleſex *for the enſuing Tear, would have Excuſed our Attendance upon your Lordſhip and this Honourable Court at this time, and upon this Occaſion, had we not been Informed by divers, that by the Suffrages of the Majority of the Citizens in Common-Hall, We were, and ſtand duly Elected Sheriffs for this City and the County of* Middleſex *for the Enſuing Tear.*

*Now though our Perſonal Unacquaintance with the Proceedings uſed in that Affair hath been ſuch, and that we have not received any Intimation or Command concerning the ſame from your Lordſhip or this Honourable Court, whereby we might have had an Opportunity of declaring our ſelves either ready to Accept, or deſirous to be Excuſed from that Office, as hath been uſual in former Caſes of the like Nature; yet in regard of the aforeſaid Information, and that the time for ſuch Declaration, as well as for any further Election, is now Elapſed, and not knowing of what Conſequence it may be to us, nor what Inconveniencies or hazard we might be Obnoxious, or Expoſed unto, if we ſhould continue Silent or Paſſive in that Affair:*

*Therefore for the avoiding all Prejudices and Inconveniencies, we have thought it a Duty Incumbent on us, to appear at this time before your Lordſhip and this Honourable Court, not to Debate or queſtion any the Proceedings or Tranſactions in this matter, nor Officiouſly to Court an Office ſo Chargeable in it ſelf, and ſo Inconvenient to Us; But as being Citizens of* London, *and ſo under Obligation to Serve the King and Countrey, when duely Called thereto; and deſirous to Excuſe our ſelves from all Imputation of Crime or neglect of Duty that might be Charged upon Us; We do with all Submiſſion hereby Declare unto your Lordſhip and this Honourable Court, that we are Ready, and do now tender our ſelves to take upon us the Office of Sheriffs for the City of* London *and County of* Middleſex *for the enſuing Tear, and to be Sworn and Admitted into that Office according to our Election; And in Order thereunto, to Attend your Lordſhip and the Aldermen to the* Huſtings *or elſewhere, and either there, or in any other proper Place and manner to take the Oaths of the ſaid Office, and ſuch other Oaths as the Law requires, and further to do and perform whatſoever the Law, or the Rights and Cuſtoms of this City Require of Us concerning the ſaid Office, and We humbly beg your Lordſhips and the Courts Anſwer therein.*

Guild-Hall, 28 Septemb. 1682.

Thomas Papillon,
John Dubois.

The which having read, Mr. *Papillon* Preſented it to my Lord Mayor, but he refuſing to take it, Mr. *Papillon* gave it to a Member of the Court, who Accepted it, to prove the Tender of themſelves.

And his Lordſhip being Preſſed to take the matter into Debate, for that the Aldermen had been Summoned to a Court, he Anſwered, *There was no Buſineſs:* To which it was Replyed, *We have much to ſay, for the Citizens ſeem to be thrown out of Poſſeſſion of the Sheriffwick, which they have enjoyed ſo many Ages by Free Election: We deſire fairly to tender our Sheriffs, in order to have the Buſineſs more fairly determin'd at Law, according to your Lordſhips Promiſe,*

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*Promiſe, and Anſwer to the many Addreſſes made, that the Law ſhould determine it; and it is the only way left us, though Troubleſome and Chargeable. And we alſo deſire the matter may be Debated, that an Anſwer may be given to the Sheriffs who have tender'd themſelves.*

Sir *P. W.* then moved that the aforeſaid Paper, and his Lordſhip's Refuſal of it might be Recorded; then Sir *R. C.* whiſper'd to his Lordſhip, and told him, that if he took a Vote of the Court, he would engage them in it, and their averſeneſs to it, ought to alarm him not to take it upon himſelf, upon which he did Heſitate ſome time, but yet at length was prevailed with to go to the *Huſtings* without further adoe, taking Mr. *North*, and Calling Mr. *Rich* to go with him; Mr. *Papillon* and Mr. *Dubois* went along with him alſo, and did prepare themſelves to have ſpoken to his Lordſhip and the Court on the *Huſtings*, and ſo did ſeveral of the Aldermen, the Lord Mayor and ſeveral Aldermen having declared in the Council-Chamber, that they might ſay what they had to ſay when they came on the *Huſtings*; But his Lordſhip would not hear them when they came thither. But the *Military Guards* after admitting a few Perſons, cloſed again, ſo that the Liveries attending could not come near; and then his Lordſhip called Mr. *North* and Mr. *Rich* to the Book to be Sworn; Mr. *Papillon* being on the *Huſtings*, preſſed the Lord Mayor that he might be heard; but my Lord refuſing to hear him, Mr. *Papillon* Preſented a Paper Signed by himſelf and Mr. *Dubois* as follows, the Subſtance of which he deſigned to have ſpoke.

To the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR and ALDERMEN at the Court of *Huſtings*, in the *Guild-Hall*, *London*, Aſſembled for the Admiſſion and Swearing the Sheriffs for the City of *London* and County of *Middleſex* for the enſuing Year, this 28th of *Septemb.* 1682.

*WE do here preſent our ſelves, and are ready to take upon us the Office of Sheriffs of this Honourable City of* London *and County of* Middleſex, *for the enſuing Year, to which, as we are Informed, we are Choſen by the Majority of the Citizens, at the Common-Hall of this City; And we are here ready, and do tender our ſelves to be Admitted thereunto, and to take the Oath of Office, and ſuch other Oaths as the Law requires, and to do and perform whatſoever the Law, or the Rights and Cuſtoms of this City require of us, relating to that Office.*

But this Paper being rejected by his Lordſhip with great heat, it was delivered to Sir *John Lawrence* as an Evidence of their tender; Upon which Mr. *Papillon* and Mr. *Dubois* went to the Book with Mr. *North* and *Rich*, and Mr. *Papillon* laid his Hand on the Book, and continued it there for ſome time, until the Lord Mayor and ſome of the Aldermen Commanded them *To forbear, and to keep the Peace, and be gone*; which they complied with, and retired: Having before earneſtly preſſed to be heard, for that they had ſomething of Importance to ſay; and ſome of the Aldermen ſaid, *My Lord, when we came out of the Council-Chamber, you ſaid, what we had to ſay on this Subject, we might ſpeak on the* Huſtings, *and therefore we claim it of Right to be heard:* But he refuſed all, and Order'd to Proceed in Adminiſtring the Oath to *North* and *Rich*, whereupon the duely Elected Sheriffs and ſix Aldermen withdrew, Proteſting againſt all the Irregular and Illegal Proceedings.

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